



**U.S. Department of
Transportation**

Office of the Secretary
of Transportation

Associate Deputy Secretary

400 Seventh St., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20590

October 17, 2002

Dear Transportation Stakeholder:

President Bush issued Executive Order 13274 on September 18, 2002, to enhance environmental stewardship and streamline environmental review of transportation infrastructure projects. The Executive Order establishes an Interagency Transportation Infrastructure Streamlining Task Force (Task Force) to expedite the review of selected transportation projects.

To get the process underway, the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) will be identifying a small number of priority projects within the next few weeks. In addition, we will begin to evaluate project nominations from Governors, with input from metropolitan planning organizations and airport authorities. The majority of transportation projects we consider for expedited review will come through this process of soliciting, receiving and evaluating nominations.

When the Administration announced the Executive Order, we pledged to listen to affected stakeholders as the Department develops criteria for selecting projects for expedited review. To facilitate this discussion, we will conduct a workshop in Washington, DC, at DOT Headquarters (400 Seventh Street, S.W., Washington, DC 20590) in the Oklahoma City Memorial Room – Room 2230, on November 1, 2002, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. EST. Workshop participants will be briefed on the Department's implementation plans, asked to discuss "best practices" in environmental stewardship, and asked to suggest project selection criteria for the Department to consider when evaluating nominations. We invite your participation in this event.

If you or a representative plan to attend, please notify us by fax at 202-366-7618 or by email to ProjectStreamlining@ost.dot.gov on or before October 25, 2002. If you are unable to attend, suggestions may be faxed or e-mailed as indicated above, or mailed to the Office of Emil Frankel, Assistant Secretary for Transportation Policy, U.S. Department of Transportation, 400 Seventh Street, S.W., Room 10305, Washington, DC 20590.

We look forward to working with you on this important initiative.

Sincerely yours,

Jeffrey N. Shane
Associate Deputy Secretary